Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 08856 150808Z ACTION ITC-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EPA-04 L-03 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /069 W ------150835Z 073841 /15

R 150800Z JUN 77 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8638 INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY PARIS AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS TOKYO 8856

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD

SUBJECT: USITC REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON

TRADE IN AUTOMOBILES

REF: STATE 106667

1. SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE NEITHER THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT NOR AUTO MANUFACTURERS HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT ANY SO-CALLED "NON-TARIFF BARRIERS" AFFECTING THE EXPORT OF JAPANESE AUTOS INTO THE U.S.. THERE HAS BEEN CONCERN RECENTLY OVER THE POSSIBLE EFFECT ON EXPORTS OF THE PROPOSED AUTO/TAX REBATE PORTION OF THE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY PACKAGE BUTTHIS CONCERNHAS ABATED FOLLOWING THE MEASURE'S DEFEAT IN THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

2. IN REGARD TO OTHER U.S. ACTIONS OR PRACTICES, IN THE PAST, UNCLASSIFIED

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THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT THE INSPECTION VISITS OF U.S. EPA OFFICIALS TO JAPANESE MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURING FACILITIES, ASKING WHETHER THIS WAS NOT, IN FACT, A FORMOF EXTRATERRITORIALITY IMPINGING ON JAPANESE SOVEREIGNTY. THE ISSUE WAS DEFUSED BY THE MANUFACTURERS' "VOLUNTARILY" INVITING THE INSPECTORS TO THEIR FACILITIES.

3. FOLLOWING LAST SUMMER'S U.S./JAPAN BILATERAL TALKS AIMED AT EXPEDITING THE VEHICLE CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE CARRIED OUT BY THE GOJ ON IMPORTED AUTOS, SUPPOSEDLY OFFICIAL COMMENTS SURFACED IN THE LOCAL PRESS ALLEGING THAT THE USEPA TAKES 6 TO 8 MONTHS TO COMPLETE EMISSIONS TESTING OF VEHICLES. (WE MAINTAIN THE TESTING TAKES THREE DAYS TO A WEEK.) THE SOURCE OF THESE COMMENTS WAS HOWEVER NEVER IDENTIFIED. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Subject: USITC REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON TRADE IN AUTOMOBILES

TAGS: ETRD, XG, JA, CA, US, USITC

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